

Hello, my name is Katy Kemmick. I'm fourteen years old and live in Billings. I am an eighth grader at Riverside Middle School. I came here today to talk about bill HB646 and energy efficiency in schools.

I hope that the people who make the big decisions will listen to all the young voices calling for change.

If we can reduce our energy consumption, save money, and give students a better learning environment, why wouldn't we be in favor of bills like this?

In my history class, the windows have ice built up on the INSIDE of the windows and in my Math class last week people had to leave the classroom to go to their lockers to get another layer of clothing to keep warm.

Investing in energy efficiency will pay for itself and will benefit schools year after year, allowing them extra money each year to pay for things like new science books. Mine is falling apart and it would be great for schools to have money to update them every few years. I really want a good education. But how am I supposed to get one when my book isn't even current? Spending money on energy efficiency will save schools year after year, rather than asking taxpayers for more and more money. You may ask, well why don't we just fund our school's book fund if you need new books? That is just a short term solution. Investing in energy efficiency is a gift that keeps on giving. When school budgets are tight and programs are being dropped, why is it not a good idea to save money?

I am part of the next generation; we will soon be the adults taking care of this planet and making decisions. If we are to do the best we can for this planet, we need to know how to do it correctly.

Please, don't put off passing this bill. I don't have time to wait. My education is happening right now. I want to be proud of a state that is wise enough to save energy, save money, and reduce our impact on the environment. Passing this bill would save money, be better for the environment and support local and state economies.

According to the U.S. Green Building Council, buildings consume more than 30% of the total energy and more than 60% of the electricity used in the US. Montana has 1,124 school buildings. An investment in energy efficient improvements that cut energy costs by 30% would be a significant reduction in the environmental impact of buildings in Montana. Governor Schweitzer has set a goal for using weatherization to reduce energy consumption in state government buildings by 20 percent by 2010. If we want to reach this goal, we have to take action. And passing this bill is a great way to do it.

Improving energy efficiency in buildings means more of our tax dollars stay in our communities instead of flowing to energy companies. It stimulates local economies through the creation of jobs.

Thank you for giving me your time and attention today. I really hope that you make the right choice for all the students in Montana by passing HB646.

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EXHIBIT 3